

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR STUDY OF INTEREST RATES

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put my question to the Minister of Finance.

Would he tell the house if he or the government intends to study thoroughly the problem of the present interest rates, since they are at their highest in this century and do not seem to encourage foreign investments?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question seems to be too comprehensive and should be put on the order paper.

[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

LONDON, ONT.—SHORTAGE OF REGISTERED NURSES AT WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the large number of letters that many of us are receiving from registered nurses at Westminster hospital in London, Ontario, may we assume that members of parliament from that area have made representations to the minister; and can he tell us what assurances he has given them that the subject matter of these letters will be dealt with, namely, the shortage of registered nurses at this hospital?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that it is certainly not in order as a question at this time to ask whether hon. members have made representations to the minister.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Then, Mr. Speaker, may I simply ask the heart of the question. What steps is the minister taking to meet the problems created by the shortage of registered nurses at Westminster hospital?

Mr. Speaker: I would think the question could be considered at the time of adjournment.

FISHERIES

SEALS—ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN SHIPS DURING CESSATION OF CANADIAN OPERATIONS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. It refers to a reply given by his parliamentary secretary [Mr. Stanfield.]

yesterday to a question posed to him regarding foreign vessels that were killing seals inside the three mile limit at a time when the minister was making his statement outside the house on Saturday. My question is: Has the government taken any action against the four Norwegian vessels that were caught killing seals within the three mile limit, similar to the action taken against the Japanese vessel on the west coast?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the hunt for seals off Labrador is under the closest possible surveillance. The fisheries protection vessel, the *Cape Freels*, is there; we have aircraft there, and a Department of Transport icebreaker is on its way. We know now that there are five Norwegian vessels inside our territorial limits. They have been warned both by the Canadian authorities and by the Norwegian authorities not to take seals. If we find they are killing seals we will of course have no alternative but to take the same action as we took with respect to the Japanese vessel off the west coast.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I refer the minister to the reply given yesterday by his parliamentary secretary in which he left no doubt about the fact that they were taking seals. As a consequence, why have not these vessels been arrested?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, this has yet to be established as a fact.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Davis: We have had one fisheries officer on board one of the vessels. We have no final evidence that they have taken seals within Canadian waters. But as I say, we have the situation under very close surveillance.

SEALS—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SEASON

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I put a question to the minister's parliamentary secretary; today I wish to add the following question to it. Has the minister received from a number of fishermen in Prince Edward Island and from the minister of fisheries of that province a strong request to extend the seal hunt season until the allocation has reached 50,000 pounds?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): I have received a recommendation to that effect from the minister of fisheries of Prince